IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 4865

International Court of Justice

H4865 – 0002

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 26.8.48

I certify that Document Number 615-PS was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number RF-1323 in the Trial by the International Military Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall

Fred NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document
Control Branch.

H4865 – 0003

# C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document 1015-PS No. RF - 1323 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the ~~United States~~ French Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Nürnberg, 20.8.48

Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

1323

H4865 - 0004

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT No. PS-1015
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

1015 C PS

Copy

The Reich Minister
for the Occupied Eastern Territories
No. 36[illegible]/8

Berlin W 35, 20 August 1941
Tiergartenstr. 17/18
Tel.: 21 9515 and 39 5046
Telegram address: Reichs-
ministerost

To the
Reichskommissar Ostland

Kovno

Subject: Seizing of Cultural Property in the Occupied Eastern Territories.

As you know, a staff assigned by me in my capacity as delegate of the Fuehrer for the supervision of the entire spiritual and ideological indoctrination and training of the NSDAP, has carried out the seizing of cultural property which may be valuable for future National Socialist research in the entire Western territory and recently also in the entire Balkans. As I told you orally, I will have the same assignment staff (Einsatzstab) go into action in the Occupied Eastern Territories and I herewith commission you to seize all cultural property within your Reich Commissariat, which is suitable for exploring the activities of the adversaries of National Socialism and for National Socialist research. As hitherto, I have charged Reichshauptstellenleiter (Leader of the Reich Central Office) UTTHAL with the direction of the assignment staff; the latter is immediately subordinate to my ministry and has been given detailed instructions by me. He is at your disposal for the carrying out of this task. In the execution of the task it will be expedient to maintain the policy hitherto adopted, i. e. that the police makes the desired confiscations and that then my assignment staff sifts the material on hand. I enclose the corresponding orders for the West. Will you please expressly forbid the removal of any cultural property by any person from your Reichskommissariat without your approval. It will be subject to a later regulation, how much of the seized cultural property will remain in the Reichskommissariat Ostland and how much may possibly

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1015 CONTS

(page 1 of original, cont'd.)

be used for research work of the Research Institute (Hohe Schule). Please instruct the below listed general and regional commissars of this directive. State administration of museums, libraries, etc. will remain untouched by this directive notwithstanding the right of the assignment staff to inspect and make an inventory of the material on hand.

Heil Hitler !

signed: A. ROSENBERG

Certified true copy

(Langhoff), Berlin, 12 November 1941

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TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT No. PS-1015
CONTINUED

1015 d PS

4 C - 3 - 1

The Reich Minister and Chief
of the Reich Chancellory

Berlin W 8, 5 July 1942
Voss Str. 6

Rk. 9495 B

Please quote this sign in
any further correspondence

at present Fuehrer Headquarters
Mail is to be addressed
exclusively to the Berlin
address

To
the Supreme Reich Authorities
and
the Offices under the Immediate command of the Fuehrer

- - - - -

The Fuehrer has entrusted Reichsleiter ROSENBERG in his capacity as the Fuehrer's delegate for the supervison of the entire spiritual and ideological indoctrination and training of the NSDAP, with the intellectual struggle against the Jews and Freemasons as well as their allied ideological adversaries of National Socialism as the originators of the present war. For this purpose the Fuehrer has ordered that the assignment staff of Reichsleiter ROSENBERG shall have the right to search libraries, archives, lodges and other ideological and cultural institutes in the Occupied Territories under military administration and in the Occupied Eastern Territories under civilian administration (not including the Government General) for material suitable for the execution of his task and to ask the competent Wehrmacht and police authorities to requisition the material thus found for the execution of the ideological tasks of the NSDAP and for the later scientific research works of the Research Institute (Hohe Schule), in which process the files pertaining to police and political matters will remain with the police, whilst all the rest will be handed over to the assignment staff of the Reichsleiter ROSENBERG. The assignment staff shall be entitled to make the same request with regard to cultural goods which are the property or possession of Jews, which are without owner or the owner of which cannot be established with certainty. The implementation regulations with regard to the collaboration with the Wehrmacht will be issued by the chief of the Supreme Command of the Wehrmacht in agreement with Reichsleiter ROSENBERG. The necessary measures within the Eastern Territories under German administration will be taken by Reichsleiter ROSENBERG in his capacity as Reichsminister

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(page 1 of original, cont'd.)

1015 d PS

for the Occupied Eastern Territories.

I inform you of this instruction of the Fuehrer and request that you support Reichsleiter ROSENBERG in the fulfillment of his task.

Signature

Dr. LAMMERS

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1015 f - PS

Supreme Command of the Wehrmacht
File Number 2 f 26 J (Ia)

No. 1838/40 secret

Berlin W 35, 30 October 1940
Tirpitzufer 72 - 76
Telephone: Local: 218191
long-distance call: 218191

To the
Commanding General of the Wehrmacht
in the Netherlands.

In supplementation of the Fuehrer's order to Reichsleiter ROSENBERG, communicated to the Adjutant Chief OKW on 5 July 1940 with file number 2850/40 secret, to search lodges, libraries and archives in the Occupied Territories for material valuable to (illegible) and to seize this material (two words illegible.) the Fuehrer has determined:

The status of ownership will be decided by conditions before the war, in France before the declaration of war on 1 September 1939,

Transfers of property to the French state etc. carried out after this deadline are null and void (for example: Polish and Slovak libraries in Paris, inventory of the Palais ROTHSCHILD and other Jewish property without owner). No reservations with regard to the searching, confiscating and shipping to Germany will be recognized on the basis of such objections.

Reichsleiter ROSENBERG, resp. his delegate, Reichshauptstellenleiter DR. RT has got unequivocal personal instructions of the Fuehrer with regard to the right of seizure; he is empowered to ship to Germany cultural property which he does valuable and to safeguard it there. The Fuehrer has reserved for himself the decision as to its use.

Please instruct the relevant offices accordingly.

The Chief of the Supreme Command
of the Wehrmacht

By Order

signed: KEITEL

Information copy to:
Adjutant of Reichsleiter ROSENBERG for taking notice
Reference number 2606/Ia.

H4865-0009

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT No. PS-1015
CONTINUED

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

23 March 1948

I, Hildegard L. FILTEL, Civ. No. 17 415, hereby certify that I am a duly appointed translator for the German and English languages and that the above is a true and correct translation of the document No. PS-1015.

Hildegard L. FILTEL
Civ. No. 17 415


"END"

1336

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT 1015 B
OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL

SPECIAL STAFF FOR PICTORIAL ART

Report of work during the period from October 1940 to July 1944

On the basis of the decree of the Fuehrer of 17 September 1940 relative seizure of ownerless works of art formerly possessed by Jews in the occupied WESTERN territories, the special staff for pictorial art commenced at the be of October 1940 in PARIS with the seizure of the works of art abandoned by t internationally known Jewish ROTHSCHILD family, which was also famous as the possessor of great art collections. It was not possible for the various me of the Jewish ROTHSCHILD family, nor for many other rich French Jews, to tr any considerable part of their part possessions to England and America in t precipitous flight before the German occupation. The staff has not only se very great parts of the art treasures abandoned in the Paris City Palaces o ROTHSCHILDS, but it also systematically searched the country-seats of the members of the ROTHSCHILD family, such as the famous LOIRE castles, for art treasures and thereby safeguarded for the Reich very important parts of th famous ROTHSCHILD art collection. The art possessions of the ROTHSCHILD's traced not only to cleverly hidden places in the individual castles but al to depots and warehouses, as for example in BORDEAUX and other coastal citi where these art treasures had already been packed for transport to America. this same manner the art possessions of other French Jews famous as art col such as KANN, DAVID-WEIL, Levy de BENZION and SELIGMANN were traced by the and seized in their entirety.

After the seizure of the most famous Jewish art collections in PARIS, al abandoned dwellings of the wealthy Parisian Jews, as well as the warehouses shipping firms the many other art depots of emigrated Jews, which were very camouflaged by French gentiles, were systematically searched by the special for pictorial art and very considerable art treasures found in this manner. seizures were carried out on the basis of preliminary exhaustive investigati into the address lists of the Frenchpolice authorities, on the basis of Jew handbooks, warehouse inventories and order books of French shipping firms a as on the basis of French art and collection catalogs. The clearly establi Jewish origin of the individual owners was proved in each case in cooperati the French police authorities and the Sicherheitsdienst (Security Service), well as on the basis of the political secure material of the staff itself.

According to the same system, the seizure of ownerless Jewish works of was gradually extended over the whole French territory. The investigations special staff for pictorial art were often made extraordinarily difficult by proven sabotage by French authorities, as well as by camouflaging of Jewish possessions by trusteeship of French Gentiles covering up for the Jews. In of this, Jewish art possessions in the occupied French territories was sei to such an extent as to justify the assumption that, in spite of all opposi and camouflaging, the most important part of the art possessions which had in the hands of Jews in France, insofar as these had not already been remov before the occupation, was safeguarded by the staff. The wholesale renova irreplaceable European art values was thereby prevented and the highest cr products of all European nations assured for Europe.

In the course of this art seizrure by the staff in the occupied WESTERN territories, the following were seized from 203 locations (collections).

21903 art objects of all types, as counted and inventoried up to now.

A seizure record was made for each location, recording the origin of the objects with exact individual data. All seized art treasures were first tak a collection warehouse at the former Jeu de Paume Museum and then to rooms of LOUVRE which had been placed at their disposal. They were scientically inv and photographed by scientific art workers of the special staff for pictori are and carefully packed there by experts for transport to the Reich. Thes were especially difficult, since the majority of the collections and individ art objects were taken over without any inventories or indications of origin and the scientific cataloguing had to be carried out by the scientific art w of the staff.

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H4865 - 0010

Since the beginning of 1943, art seizures of the staff have been extende include also furniture seizures of the EAST Ministry, whereby a great number individual valuable art works could be seized from individual dwellings and warehouses.

During the period from March 1941 to July 1944, the special staff for p art brought into the Reich:

29 large shipments including
137 Freight-cars with
4174 cases of art works.

These shipments were taken to 6 shelters in the Reich, unpacked and st with observation of all conservation, air raid and fire protection precaut At the shelters the inventories, which had served in PARIS only for identi were supplemented according to scientific view-points, and the results of scientific cataloguing were recorded on inventory lists and thoroughly ind With this scientific inventory of a material unique in its scope and impor and of a value hitherto unknown to art research, the special staff for pict art has conducted a work important to the entire field of art. This invent work will form the basis of an all-inclusive scientific catalog, in which be recorded history, scope and scientific and political significance of thi historically unique art seizure.

A restoration work shop equipped with all technical aids was established the special staff at one of the shelters, and has been occupied with the car restoration of seized articles of artistic value, as well as with their perm observation at the shelters. Several hundreds of the works of art that had neglected by their Jewish owners or had earlier been inexpertly restored wer restored in this workshop and their preservation assured.

In addition, all seized articles of artistic value were photographed by photography workshop of the special staff and included in a film library. not only the identity of each individual art work was recorded, but also mat of permanent value for study and publication in the field of art was created

Up to 15 July 1944 the following had been scientifically inventoried:

21 903 art works

5 281 paintings, pastels, water-colors, drawings
684 miniatures, glass and enamel printings, books and manuscripts
583 plastics, terra-cottas, medallions and plaques
2 177 articles of furniture of value to art history
583 textiles (Gobelins, rugs, embroideries, Coptic materials)
5 629 hard-made art works (porcelains, bronzes, faiences, majolica, o jewelry, coins, art objects made with precious stones)
1 286 East Asiatic art works (bronzes, plastics, porcelains, paintings, screens, weapons)
259 art works of antiquity (sculptures, bronzes, vases, jewelry, bowl cut stones, terra-cottas).

These figures will be increased, since seizures in the WEST are not yet completed, and it has not been possible to make a scientific inventory of p the seized objects because of the lack of experts.

The extraordinary artistic and material value of the seized art wor cannot be expressed in figures. The paintings, period furniture of the 17 18th centuries, the Gobelins, the antiques and renaissance jewelry of the R CHILD's are objects of such a unique character that their evaluation is imp since no comparable values have so far appeared on the art market.

A short report, moreover, can only hint at the artistic worth of the col Among the seized paintings, pastels and drawings there are several hundred w of the first quality, masterpieces of European art, which could take first p in any museum. Included therein are absolutely authenticated signed works REMBRANDT van RIJN, RUBENS, Frans HALS, Vermeer van DELFT, VELASQUEZ, MURILL GOYA, Sebastiano del PIOMBO, Palma VECCHIO, etc.

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Of first importance among the seized paintings are the works of the famous French painters of the 18th century, with masterpieces of BOUCHER, WATTEAU, ALLEAUD, LARGILLIERE, KAUFFER, FRAGONARD, PATER, DUMOUX and de TROY.

This collection can compare with those of the best European museums. It includes many works of the foremost French masters, who up to now have been inadequately represented in the best German museums. Very important also is representation of masterpieces of the Dutch painters of the 17th and 18th ce First of all should be mentioned the works of van DYCK, Salomon and Jacob RU WOUVERMANN, TERBORCH, Jan WEENIX, Gabriel METSU, Adrian van OSTADE, David Pieter de HOOCH, Willem van der VELDE, etc.

Of foremost importance also are the represented works of English paint the 18th and 19th centuries, with masterpieces of Reynolds ROMNEY and GLAI GRAM.CH and AMBERGER, among the German masters, should be mentioned.

The collection of French furniture of the 17th and 18th centuries is po even more highly to be evaluated. This contains hundreds of the best prese and, for the most part, signed works of the best known cabinet-makers from period between LOUIS XIV to LOUIS XVI. Since German cabinet-makers played important part in this golden age of French cabinetry, now recognised for th first time in the field of art, this collection is of paramount importance.

The collection of Gobelins and Persian tapestries contains numerous world famous objects. The collection of handicraft works and the ROTHSCHILD collec of renaissance jewelry is valuable beyond comparison.

Very many works of art were seized by the staff from the luggage of Jewi emigrants in Holland as well as in the occupied territories of France and Be

Work in the EASTERN territories.

The activity of the special staff for pictorial art was limited in the E EASTERN territories to a scientific and photographic recording of public col and their safeguarding and care in cooperation with the military and civil a In the course of the evacuation of the territory several hundred most valuab Russian Ikons, several hundred Russian paintings of the 18th and 19th centu individual articles of furniture and furniture from castles were saved in co ation with the individual army groups, and brought to a shelter in the Reich

A collection of degenerate Bolshevist art, as well as a collection of d erate EASTERN art, was also made for political study purposes. In addition, rich collection of material concerning Soviet architecture was made.

25 portfolios of pictures with the most valuable works of the art collec seized in the WEST were presented to the Fuehrer on 20 April 1943, together three volumes of a provisional catalog of paintings and an interim progress Additional portfolios of pictures are in preparation.

Robert SCHOLZ

Bereichsleiter
Chief of the Special Staff
for Pictorial Art.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION
OF DOCUMENT NO. 1015 B

7 November 1945

I, FRED NIEBERGALL, 2nd Lt., Inf., O-1335567, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages; and that the ab is a correct and true translation of Document No. 1015 B.

FRED NIEBERGALL,
2nd Lt., Inf.,
O-1335567

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1393

H4865-0013

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

doc.no 1015-PS Date 26 September 19

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT (Under following headings).

Title and Nature: Folder containing a number of documents pertaining to the seizure of Art treasures in occupied territories.

Date: 20 May 1944 Original (x) Copy ( ) Language: German

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WHERE if applicable) as of 26 Sep 45:

OCC Files, Nurnberg

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: G-5, 7th Army

PERSONS IMPLICATED: BORMANN, Martin; GOERING, Hermann; HITLER, Adolf; KEITEL, Wilhelm; RAMERS, Hans Heinrich; ROSENBERG, Alfred.

REFERENCES TO INDEX HEADINGS (Key to Par. nos. of Summary below):

WEHRMACHT; OKW-- WEHRMACHT: OKW: Army: OKH-- WEHRMACHT: OKW: Air Force: OKL-- IDEOLOGY, NAZI:-- NSDAP-- JEWS, PERSECUTION OF-- POLICE: Gestapo-- POLICE: SD-- SPOLIATION OF FOREIGN PROPERTY: Direct Seizure--

NECESSARY PROCESSING TO PUT IN EVIDENTIARY FORM; LEADS: None

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

This folder contains a number of various documents, all pertaining to the seizure of Art treasures and Jewish apartments in the occupied territories, mostly conducted by the Einsatzstab Rosenberg.

1015 a is a photostat copy of a letter addressed to the Einsatzstab Rosenberg from the OKH, General Staff of the Army. It notifies Rosenberg that the Commanders in Chief of France and Belgium have been instructed to support the Einsatzstab. Southern France has been excluded. It is dated 17 Oct 1943.

1015 b is a copy of a report on the work of "The Sonderstab fuer Bildende Kunst", ("Special Staff for Pictorial Art"), covering the period from October 1940 to July 1944. In place of a signature, the name of Robert Scholz, Chief of that Staff, is typed on the report.

1015 c is a certified copy of a letter from Rosenberg as Minister for the Occupied Eastern territories, addressed to the

Reichs Commissar for the Baltic States. It contains an order for the seizure of art treasures with the help of the police under the guidance of Utikal. It is dated 20 August 1941.

1015 d is a photostat copy of a letter to the Highest Reichs Authorities and all services directly under the Fuehrer, signed by Dr. Lammers. It confirms Rosenberg's authority for the seizure of material from libraries, archives, and lodges in all occupied areas under military occupation, and of the occupied areas in the East which are under civil administration. The General Government, Poland, is not included. The document is dated 5 July 1942.

1015 e is a copy of a letter from the OKW to Keitel, extending certain orders (presumably re Einsatzstab Rosenberg) to Belgium. Dated 10 October 1940.

1015 f is a copy of a letter from the OKW to the Commander in the Netherlands giving Einsatzstab Rosenberg authority to conduct its looting activities in Belgium. It is dated 30 October 1940.

1015 g is an initialled copy of a letter from Utikal to Goering's adjutant, Major von Brauchitsch. It notifies Goering that von Behr has been replaced by Robert Scholz, as leader of the Art collecting work of the Einsatzstab. Von Behr will devote his time to the seizure of Jewish apartments for the bombed out cities of Germany. Dr. Lohse will take care of Goering's special wishes. Dated 21 April 1943.

1015 h is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Rosenberg as Minister for the occupied Eastern territories. It informs the Highest Reich authorities of the establishment of a central agency for the collecting of art treasures in the eastern occupied territories. Dated 12 June 1942.

1015 i is a photostat copy of a letter from Goering to Rosenberg. It bears Goering's signature. Goering tried to remove the stigma of Art merchants from the Einsatzstab. He asked for the future cooperation as his units have contributed to the success of the Einsatzstab so far. Dated 30 May 1942.

1015 j is a copy of a letter from Goering's adjutant to von Behr asking him how his transfer from the Louvre would affect Goering's interest. Dated 24 April 1943.

1015 k is a photostat copy of a Fuehrer Decree installing Rosenberg in his capacity as collector of cultural objects for the Hohe Schule. It is signed by Hitler and dated 1 March 1942.

1015 l is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Goering expressing his agreement with the policies of the Einsatzstab. Dated 1 May 1941.

1015 m is a photostat copy of a letter from Keitel to the OKH and Commanders in Chief of the Netherlands ordering support of the Einsatzstab. Dated 5 July 1940.

1015 n is a photostat copy of a signed OKH order regulating the operation of the Einsatzstab in areas under military occupation, and giving an administrative SOP. Dated 30 Sept 1942.

1015 o is a list of distribution of the above letter.

1015 p is a list of distribution of document 1015 q.

1015 q is a mimeographed copy of a letter from Rosenberg in his capacity as Minister for the occupied eastern territories to the Commissars of Riga and Kovno, re Einsatzstab in their area. Dated 7 April 1942.



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1015 r is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Rosenberg and addressed to Utikal appointing him Chief of the Central Agency for the Collecting of Art in the occupied eastern territories. Dated 27 April 1942.

1015 s is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Rosenberg and addressed to Utikal. The content is similar to that in 1015 r Dated 3 October 1941.

1015 t is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Rosenberg extending Utikal's authority to the seizure of Jewish apartments. Dated 14 Jan 1942.

1015 u and v are photostats of letters to Rosenberg and the Commanders in Chief respectively, containing OKH orders for the seizure of Jewish apartments. Dated 20 Jan 1942.

1015 w is a photostat copy of an agreement between the Einsatzstab and the Ministry for the Occupied territories in the East, about the action if (seizure of furniture). It is dated 17 Apr 42.

1015 x is a photostat copy of a letter from Lammers to Keitel re seizure of Jewish apartments. Dated 31 Dec 1941.

1015 y is a photostat copy of Lammers' letter to Rosenberg informing him of Hitler's agreement to the seizure of furniture. Dated 31 Dec 1941.

1015 z is a photostat copy of a certified copy of a note sent to Hitler requesting authority to seize Jewish apartments, dated 18 Dec 1941.

1015 aa is a photostat copy of an OKW Order, signed by Keitel, to the Commander in Chief of occupied France, establishing authorities for the Einsatzstab. Property changes since the beginning of the war will not be recognized. Date 18 Sept 1940.

1015 bb is a copy of the letter from Bormann to Rosenberg urging him to make the seized art treasures available to Hitler's expert. Dated 21 Apr 1943.

1015 cc is an original order signed by Goering re evacuation of art treasures.

1015 dd is a copy of an inventory of the Art treasures seized by the Einsatzstab up to 13 July 194[illegible]

1015 ee is an undated, unsigned, list of seized Jewish Art collections.

1015 ff is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Lammers appointing Dr. Voss as Hitler's expert to decide for the Fuehrer about the disposition of Art objects.

1015 gg is an undated, unsigned, inventory of art treasures.

Analyst: Lt. Buchsbaum

Doc No. 1015-PS

H4865-0015

H4865 - 0016

1323

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

doc.no 1015-PS Date 26 September 19

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT (Under following headings).

Title and Nature: Folder containing a number of documents pertaining to the seizure of Art treasures in occupied territories.

Date: 20 May 1944 Original (x) Copy ( ) Language: German

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable) as of 26 Sep 45:

OCC Files, Nurnberg

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: G-5, 7th Army

PERSONS IMPLICATED: BORMANN, Martin; GOERING, Hermann; HITLER, Adolf; KEITEL, Wilhelm; LAMMERS, Hans Heinrich; ROSENBERG, Alfred.

REFERENCES TO INDEX HEADINGS (Key to Par. nos. of Summary below):

WEHRMACHT; OKW-- WEHRMACHT: OKL: Army: OKH-- WEHRMACHT: OKW: Air Force: OKL-- IDEOLOGY, NAZI:-- NSDAP-- JEWS, PERSECUTION OF-- POLICE: Gestapo-- POLICE: SD-- SPOLIATION OF FOREIGN PROPERTY: Direct Seizure--

NECESSARY PROCESSING TO PUT IN EVIDENTIARY FORM; LEADS: None

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

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1015 a is a photostat copy of a letter addressed to the Einsatzstab Rosenberg from the OKH, General Staff of the Army. It notifies Rosenberg that the Commanders in Chief of France and Belgium have been instructed to support the Einsatzstab. Southern France has been excluded. It is dated 17 Oct 1943.

1015 b is a copy of a report on the work of "The Sonderstab fuer Bildende Kunst", ("Special Staff for Pictorial Art"), covering the period from October 1940 to July 1944. In place of a signature, the name of Robert Scholz, Chief of that Staff, is typed on the report.

1015 c is a certified copy of a letter from Rosenberg as Minister for the Occupied Eastern territories, addressed to the

Reichs Commissar for the Baltic States. It contains an order for the seizure of art treasures with the help of the police under the guidance of Utikal. It is dated 20 August 1941.

1015 d is a photostat copy of a letter to the Highest Reichs Authorities and all services directly under the Fuehrer, signed by Dr. Lammers. It confirms Rosenberg's authority for the seizure of material from libraries, archives, and lodges in all occupied areas under military occupation, and of the occupied areas in the East which are under civil administration. The General Government, Poland, is not included. The document is dated 5 July 1942.

1015 e is a copy of a letter from the OKW to Keitel, extending certain orders (presumably re Einsatzstab Rosenberg) to Belgium. Dated 10 October 1940.

1015 f is a copy of a letter from the OKW to the Commander in the Netherlands giving Einsatzstab Rosenberg authority to conduct its looting activities in Belgium. It is dated 30 October 1940.

1015 g is an initialled copy of a letter from Utikal to Goering's adjutant, Major von Brauchitsch. It notifies Goering that von Behr has been replaced by Robert Scholz, as leader of the Art collecting work of the Einsatzstab. Von Behr will devote his time to the seizure of Jewish apartments for the bombed out cities of Germany. Dr. Lohse will take care of Goering's special wishes. Dated 21 April 1943.

1015 h is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Rosenberg as Minister for the occupied Eastern territories. It informs the Highest Reich authorities of the establishment of a central agency for the collecting of art treasures in the eastern occupied territories. Dated 12 June 1942.

1015 i is a photostat copy of a letter from Goering to Rosenberg. It bears Goering's signature. Goering tried to remove the stigma of Art merchants from the Einsatzstab. He asked for the future cooperation as his units have contributed to the success of the Einsatzstab so far. Dated 30 May 1942.

1015 j is a copy of a letter from Goering's adjutant to von Behr asking him how his transfer from the Louvre would affect Goering's interest. Dated 24 April 1943.

1015 k is a photostat copy of a Fuehrer Decree installing Rosenberg in his capacity as collector of cultural objects for the Hohe Schule. It is signed by Hitler and dated 1 March 1942.

1015 l is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Goering expressing his agreement with the policies of the Einsatzstab. Dated 1 May 1941.

1015 m is a photostat copy of a letter from Keitel to the OKH and Commanders in Chief of the Netherlands ordering support of the Einsatzstab. Dated 5 July 1940

1015 n is a photostat copy of a signed OKH order regulating the operation of the Einsatzstab in areas under military occupation, and giving an administrative SOP. Dated 30 Sept 1942.

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Doc.No. 1015-PS

1015 r is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Rosenberg and addressed to Utikal appointing him Chief of the Central Agency for the Collecting of Art in the occupied eastern territories. Dated 27 April 1942.

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1015 t is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Rosenberg extending Utikal's authority to the seizure of Jewish apartments. Dated 14 Jan 1942.

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1015 w is a photostat copy of an agreement between the Einsatzstab and the Ministry for the Occupied territories in the East, about the action M (seizure of furniture). It is dated 17 Apr 42.

1015 x is a photostat copy of a letter from Lammers to Keitel re seizure of Jewish apartments. Dated 31 Dec 1941.

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1015 dd is a copy of an inventory of the Art treasures seized by the Einsatzstab up to 13 July 1942.

1015 ee is an undated, unsigned, list of seized Jewish Art collections.

1015 ff is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Lammers appointing Dr. Voss as Hitler's expert to decide for the Fuehrer about the disposition of Art objects.

1015 gg is an undated, unsigned, inventory of art treasures.

Analyst: Lt. Buchsbaum

Doc No. 1015-

1323

H4865-0017

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

doc.no 1015-PS Date 26 September 19

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT (Under following headings).

Title and Nature: Folder containing a number of documents pertaining to the seizure of Art treasures in occupied territories.

Date: 20 May 1944 Original (x) Copy ( ) Language: German

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable) as of 26 Sep 45:

OCC Files, Nurnberg

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: G-5, 7th Army

PERSONS IMPLICATED: BORMANN, Martin; GOERING, Hermann; HITLER, Adolf; KEITEL, Wilhelm; LAMMERS, Hans Heinrich; ROSENBERG, Alfred.

REFERENCES TO INDEX HEADINGS (Key to Par. nos. of Summary below):

WEHRMACHT; OKW-- WEHRMACHT: OKH: Army: OKH-- WEHRMACHT: OKW: Air Force: OKL-- IDEOLOGY, NAZI:-- NSDAP-- JEWS, PERSECUTION OF-- POLICE: Gestapo-- POLICE: SD-- SPOLIATION OF FOREIGN PROPERTY: Direct Seizure--

NECESSARY PROCESSING TO PUT IN EVIDENTIARY FORM; LEADS: None

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

This folder contains a number of various documents, all pertaining to the seizure of Art treasures and Jewish apartments in the occupied territories, mostly conducted by the Einsatzstab Rosenberg.

1015 a is a photostat copy of a letter addressed to the Einsatzstab Rosenberg from the OKH, General Staff of the Army. It notifies Rosenberg that the Commanders in Chief of France and Belgium have been instructed to support the Einsatzstab. Southern France has been excluded. It is dated 17 Oct 1943.

1015 b is a copy of a report on the work of "The Sonderstab fuer Bildende Kunst", ("Special Staff for Pictorial Art"), covering the period from October 1940 to July 1944. In place of a signature, the name of Robert Scholz, Chief of that Staff, is typed on the report.

1015 c is a certified copy of a letter from Rosenberg as Minister for the Occupied Eastern territories, addressed to the

Reichs Commissar for the Baltic States. It contains an order for the seizure of art treasures with the help of the police under the guidance of Utikal. It is dated 20 August 1941.

1015 d is a photostat copy of a letter to the Highest Reichs Authorities and all services directly under the Fuehrer, signed by Dr. Lammers. It confirms Rosenberg's authority for the seizure of material from libraries, archives, and lodges in all occupied areas under military occupation, and of the occupied areas in the East which are under civil administration. The General Government, Poland, is not included. The document is dated 5 July 1942.

1015 e is a copy of a letter from the OKW to Keitel, extending certain orders (presumably re Einsatzstab Rosenberg) to Belgium. Dated 10 October 1940.

1015 f is a copy of a letter from the OKW to the Commander in the Netherlands giving Einsatzstab Rosenberg authority to conduct its looting activities in Belgium. It is dated 30 October 1940.

1015 g is an initialled copy of a letter from Utikal to Goering's adjutant, Major von Brauchitsch. It notifies Goering that von Behr has been replaced by Robert Scholz, as leader of the Art collecting work of the Einsatzstab. Von Behr will devote his time to the seizure of Jewish apartments for the bombed out cities of Germany. Dr. Lohse will take care of Goering's special wishes. Dated 21 April 1943.

1015 h is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Rosenberg as Minister for the occupied Eastern territories. It informs the Highest Reich authorities of the establishment of a central agency for the collecting of art treasures in the eastern occupied territories. Dated 12 June 1942.

1015 i is a photostat copy of a letter from Goering to Rosenberg. It bears Goering's signature. Goering tried to remove the stigma of Art merchants from the Einsatzstab. He asked for the future cooperation as his units have contributed to the success of the Einsatzstab so far. Dated 30 [illegible] 1942.

1015 j is a copy of a letter from Goering's adjutant to von Behr asking him how his transfer from the Louvre would affect Goering's interest. Dated 24 April 1943.

1015 k is a photostat copy of a Fuehrer Decree installing Rosenberg in his capacity as collector of cultural objects for the Hohe Schule. It is signed by Hitler and dated 1 March 1942.

1015 l is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Goering expressing his agreement with the policies of the Einsatzstab. Dated 1 May 1941.

1015 m is a photostat copy of a letter from Keitel to the OKH and Commanders in Chief of the Netherlands ordering support of the Einsatzstab. Dated 5 July 1940.

1015 n is a photostat copy of a signed OKH order regulating the operation of the Einsatzstab in areas under military occupation, and giving an administrative SOP. Dated 30 Sept 1942.

1015 o is a list of distribution of the above letter.

1015 p is a list of distribution of document 1015 q.

1015 q is a mimeographed copy of a letter from Rosenberg in his capacity as Minister for the occupied eastern territories to the Commissars of Riga and Kovno, re Einsatzstab in their area. Dated 7 April 1942.



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1015 r is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Rosenberg and addressed to Utikal appointing him Chief of the Central Agency for the Collecting of Art in the occupied eastern territories. Dated 27 April 1942.

1015 s is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Rosenberg and addressed to Utikal. The content is similar to that in 1015 r Dated 3 October 1941.

1015 t is a photostat copy of a letter signed by Rosenberg extending Utikal's authority to the seizure of Jewish apartments. Dated 14 Jan 1942.

1015 u and v are photostats of letters to Rosenberg and the Commanders in Chief respectively, containing OKH orders for the seizure of Jewish apartments. Dated 20 Jan 1942.

1015 w is a photostat copy of an agreement between the Einsatzstab and the Ministry for the Occupied territories in the East, about the action M (seizure of furniture). It is dated 17 Apr 42.

1015 x is a photostat copy of a letter from Lammers to Keitel re seizure of Jewish apartments. Dated 31 Dec 1941.

1015 y is a photostat copy of Lammers' letter to Rosenberg informing him of Hitler's agreement to the seizure of furniture. Dated 31 Dec 1941.

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Analyst: Lt. Buchsbaum

Doc No. 1015-PS

H4865 - 0019

H4865 – 0020

TRIBUNAL MILITAIRE INTERNATIONAL
DES GRANDS CRIMINELS DE GUERRE

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Delegation Française au Ministère Public - Section Economique

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L.D. Art : ..... Document :.....

Compte-Rendu non date du Dr. Robert SCHOLZ sur l'activite de l'ERR, pour la periode Octobre 1940 a Juillet 1944.

Traduction du document 1015 PS b .

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NURNBERG, GERMANY
Exhibit RF 1323
Filed Feb 6, 1946

H4865 – 0021

Traduction du document I015 PS b .

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ETAT-MAJOR SPECIAL -BEAUX ARTS-

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-Compte-rendu d'activite pour la Periode d'Octobre I940 a Juillet I944.-

En execution de l'ordre du Fuehrer du I7.9.I940-sur la saisie des oeuvres artistiques Juives sans maître (Herrenlosen Jüdischen Kunstbesitzes) dans les territoires occupes de l'Ouest de l'Etat-Major Special -Beaux-Arts- commença ses operations à Paris en I940 en procedant a la saisie des collections appartenant a la famille juive ROTSCHILD universellement connue . Les differents membres de la famille juive ROTSCHILD, de même que d'autres riches Juifs de France, ne reussirent pas dans leur fuite precipitee, devant l'occupation allemande, à emporter en Angleterre et en Amerique une importante partie de leurs collections .

L'Etat-Major Special ne s'est pas seulement empare de très importantes parties de la collection que les ROTSCHILD avaient abandonnee dans leur hôtel parisien mais elle proceda à des perquisitions methodiques dans les residences des differents membres de cette famille ainsi que dans leurs chateaux bien connus de la Loire . Elle y mit la main sur d'importantes parties de la collection ROTSCHILD, celèbre dans le monde entier . On decouvrit les differents elements de cette collection non seulement dans des cachettes adroitement choisies des differents châteaux, mais aussi dans des depôts et des garde-meubles , par exemple à Bordeaux et dans d'autres villes de la côte où les objets d'art etaient deja emballes et prêts à être expedies en Amerique .

Les collections des autres juifs français connus, comme collectionneurs, tel que KANN, DAVID-WEIL, LEVY de BENZION et SELIGMANN furent decouvertes de la même façon et mises en totalite en sûrete. La saisie des collections appartenant aux juifs les plus connus de Paris, une fois operee, l'Etat-Major Special -Beaux-arts- proceda a des perquisitions methodiques dans toutes les residences appartenant a des juifs fortunes de Paris, dans les magasins de toutes les entreprises de transports ainsi que dans beaucoup d'autres depôts où les objets d'art appartenant a des emigres juifs etaient très souvent camouflés par des français aryens .

D'importantes quantite d'objets d'art furent decouvertes de cette façon. Ces saisies furent operees a la suite de recherches effectuees preliablement sur les listes de la police française dans les registres des depôts et dans les registres d'entree des entreprises de transports françaises ainsi que dans les catalogues d'art et de collections .

L'origine juive incontestable des proprietaires fut etablie dans chaque cas, en collaboration avec la police française et le service de la sûrete, de même en faisant appel aux sources politiques dont disposaient par ailleurs l'Etat-Major Special .

Le même procede fut mis en oeuvre pour proceder progressivement a la saisie des biens artistiques juifs sur toute l'etendue du territoire français . Les recherches de l'Etat-Major Special -Beaux-Arts- furent souvent rendues extraordinairement difficile a la suite de la volonte de sabotage par les autorites françaises et le camouflage par des aryens français a qui les juifs avaient confie les oeuvres d'art en leur possession.

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Malgré cela, il fut possible de mettre la main sur les trésors d'art juifs possédés par les juifs en territoire français et ce, dans une proportion telle, qu'en dépit de toutes les résistances et de tous les camouflages, on peut admettre que la plus grande partie de ces biens artistiques entre les mains de juifs en France, a été saisie par l'Etat-Major Spécial -Beaux-Arts, dans la mesure toutefois où ils n'avaient pas été, avant l'occupation, mis en sûreté.

On empêcha ainsi l'émigration d'oeuvres d'art européennes de grand style irremplaçables et de productions artistiques issues du génie de toutes les nations d'Europe qui purent être mises en sûreté.

Au cours de ces opérations de l'Etat-Major Spécial - Beaux-Arts -, dans les pays occupés de l'Ouest, il fut saisi :

203 dépôts ou collections, comprenant :
21.903 objets d'art de toutes sortes
répertoriés et inventoriés à ce jour.

Pour chaque place (Einsatzstelle) fut établi un procès verbal de saisie mentionnant de façon précise l'origine exacte de l'objet.

Toutes les oeuvres d'art saisies furent d'abord transportées dans un dépôt constitué à l'ancien musée du Jeu de Paume et dans des salles du Louvre spécialement mises à disposition. Là elles furent inventoriées scientifiquement par des experts de l'Etat-Major Spécial -Beaux-Arts-, photographiées et soigneusement emballées par des spécialistes en vue de leur transport en Allemagne.

Ce travail fut rendu particulièrement difficile du fait que la plupart des collections aussi bien que des objets isolés, étaient tombés entre leurs mains sans inventaire et sans indication d'origine, d'où nécessité d'identification par l'expert Etat-Major Spécial -Beaux-Arts.

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Depuis le debut de 1943, l'Etat-Major Special -Beaux-Arts- prit a son compte, en outre, les operations de saisie de meubles pour le compte du Ministère des Pays de l'Est, au cours desquelles une grande quantite d'oeuvres d'art de haute valeur, purent être saisies dans les maisons particulières et dans les depôts .

De la fin Mars 1941 jusqu'a Juillet 1944, l'Etat-Major Special -Beaux-Arts- fait en Allemagne 29 grands envois comprenant :

137 wagons, soit

1174 caisses d'oeuvres d'art .

Ces transports furent entreposes dans le Reich en six depôts (Bergunsorte) deballes et emmagasines en prenant toutes les precautions utiles pour leur conservation, leur protection contre le danger aerien et l'incendie.

Dans ces depôts l'inventaire fait à Paris aux seules fins d'identification, fut complete du point de vue scientifique et les resultats de ces operations furent portes sur une liste d'inventaire et dans un fichier embrassant tous les objets d'art . A faire cet inventaire scientifique d'une masse d'objets d'art unique de par son importance ou de par sa valeur et jusqu'alors fermee aux recherches scientifiques, l'Etat-Major Special-Beaux-Arts- a accomplit un travail considerable pour toute la science des beaux-arts .

Ces inventaires serviront de base a un catalogue general scientifique dans lequel seront exposes a titre documentaire, le processus, l'etendue, l'importance politique et scientifique de cette operation unique et historique en matière de saisie d'objets d'art .

L'Etat-Major Special -Beaux-Arts-, a créé dans l'un des dépôts, un atelier de restauration doté de tous les moyens techniques. Il est chargé de l'entretien, de la restauration et de la surveillance des oeuvres d'art dans tous les dépôts où elles sont conservées.

Quelques centaines d'oeuvres d'art négligées par leurs propriétaires juifs ou provisoirement restaurées, purent être, soit restaurées, soit remises en bon état par les soins de cet atelier.

En outre, toutes les oeuvres d'art saisies ont été photographiées par les services photographiques de l'Etat-Major Special -Beaux-Arts- et classées en photothèque. Ainsi l'identité de chaque objet d'art fut-elle établie documentairement en même temps qu'était rassemblé un matériel d'études et de vulgarisation d'une valeur permanente. Jusqu'au 15 Juillet 19.. furent scientifiquement inventoriés :

21.905 objets d'art
5.281 tableaux, pastels, aquarelles, dessins.
684 miniatures, peintures sur verre et sur émail, imprimés et manuscrits
[illegible] plastiques, terres cuites, médailles et plaquettes
[illegible]177 meubles de valeur artistique
[illegible]953 textiles (gobelins, tapis, broderies)
3.825 objets artisanals de valeur (porcelaines, bronzes, faïence, céramique, orfèvrerie, bijoux, monnaies [illegible])
1.286 oeuvres d'art orientales (bronze, plastiques, porcelaines, tableaux, armes.
259 antiques (sculptures, bronzes, verres, bijoux, coupes, pierres taillées et terres cuites).

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Ces chiffres sont appelés à s'accroître, car dans les territoires de l'Ouest, les saisies ne sont pas encore terminées et par suite du manque de spécialistes, une partie des objets qui sont déjà en notre possession n'a pas encore pu faire l'objet d'un inventaire scientifique .

La valeur exceptionnellement élevée des objets d'art saisis ne peut être chiffrée .

Les tableaux, les meubles de style du XVIIème et du XVIIIème siècle, les Gobelins, les antiques et les bijoux Renaissance des ROTSCHILD sont uniques . Il est par suite impossible d'en déterminer la valeur, étant donné qu'il n'existe aucun objet comparable sur le marché scientifique .

De même la valeur artistique ne peut qu'être effleurée dans le cadre d'un bref rapport .

Parmi les tableaux, pastels et dessins saisis il en est quelques centaines qui comptent parmi les chefs-d'oeuvres de l'art européen et peuvent être placés en cimaise dans n'importe quel musée . Il se trouve parmi eux des oeuvres d'une incontestable authenticité qui sont signées de REMBRANDT, VAN RIJN, RUBENS, FRANZ HALS, VERMEER VAN DELFT, VELASQUEZ, MURILLO, , GOYA, SEBATIANO, DEL PIOMBO, PALMA, VECCHIO etc ...

Au premier rang incontesté des peintures saisies, il faut placer les tableaux des peintres français célèbres du XVIIIème siècle représentés par des chefs-d'oeuvres de BOUCHER, WATTEAU, FRAGONARD, LARGILLIERE, MATTIER, FRAGONARD, RAFFET, DAUBIGNY et DE TROY . Cette collection peut soutenir la comparaison avec celles des plus grands musées européens . Elle comprend un nombre important des oeuvres des plus grands maîtres français insuffisamment représentés jusqu'ici dans les musées allemands .

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L'apport d'oeuvres capitales des maîtres hollandais des XVII et XVIIIème siècles est aussi très important . Il y a lieu de mentionner parmi eux des oeuvres marquantes de VAN DYCK, SALOMON et JACOB RUYSDAEL, WOUVERMANS, TERBORCH, JAN WEENIX, Gabriel METSU, Adrian VAN OSTADE, David TENIERS, Pieter DE HOOCH, Wilhelm VAN DER VELDE etc..

La peinture anglaise des XVIII et XIX ème siècles occupe aussi une place très importante avec les chefs d'oeuvres de REYNOLDS, ROMNEY et GAINSBOROUGH . Parmi les maîtres allemands, il faut signaler GRANACH et AMBERGER .

C'est la collection des meubles français datant du XVII et XVIIIème siècles qui a peut être encore la valeur de beaucoup la plus élevée . Il s'agit de centaines de chefs d'oeuvres bien conservés et la plupart du temps signés qui ont été exécutés par des maîtres célèbres de l'époque de Louis XIV à Louis XVI .

Cette collection est d'un intérêt exceptionnel en ce qui concerne la contribution en ébénistes allemands à cet essor de l'art mobilier français , contribution que la science artistique reconnaît que depuis peu de temps . La collection des Gobelins et les tentures de Perse représentent de nombreux sujets célèbres . La collection des oeuvres d'art, la collection des bijoux renaissance des ROTHSCHILD représente une valeur sans pareille .

En dehors des régions occupées de la France, l'Etat-Major Spécial -Beaux-Arts- a saisi des chefs d'oeuvres importants en Belgique et d'autres emmenés par les émigrés juifs de Hollande .

H4865 – 0028

Travail effectué dans les territoires de l'Est .

Dans les territoires occupés de l'Est, "l'Etat-Major Spécial -Beaux-Arts-", réduisit son activité à l'étude scientifique et à la photographie des collections publiques . Leur mise en sécurité et les précautions à prendre furent réalisées en collaboration avec les services militaires et civils.

Au cours de l'évacuation des territoires, quelques centaines d'icônes russes et des tableaux de peintres russes du XVIII et XIX ème siècle, des meubles isolés, des objets de décorations d'intérieur ont été enlevés dans les châteaux, en collaboration avec certaines unités militaires, et mises en lieu sûr dans le Reich .

En vue d'études politiques on a constitué une collection d'art bolchevique dégénéré, de même qu'une collection d'art occidental dégénéré .

En outre, "L'Etat-Major Spécial Beaux-Arts" a rassemblé une vaste documentation sur l'entretien des objets d'art, l'organisation des musées (Museumspolitik) les publications artistiques ainsi que sur l'architecture en russie soviétique : 25 cartons (Bildermappen) contenant les oeuvres qui ont la plus grande valeur choisies parmi les premières collections saisies ont été envoyées au Führer le 20 Avril 1943 avec trois volumes d'un catalogue provisoire et un compte-rendu des travaux en cours ; 10 autres cartons sont joints à ce compte-rendu . D'autres encore, sont en préparation .

Robert SCHOLZ

Berichtleiter
Chef de l'Etat-major Spécial
-Beaux-Arts- .

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